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from m. 0/0 to m. 3/1 and from m. 3/4 to m. 8/2 have been formed so far and section from m. 3/1 to m. 3/4 will be completed after the bridges at Pilanthodu and Cherapuram are constructed.

(b) & (c) The construction of the bridge at Cherapuram has not been taken up for the present due to change of alignment. It will be taken up after the alignment is settled and lands are acquired.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: May I know why there is delay in acquiring the land and starting the work?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMI PADAYACHI: Landowners object to giving their lands.

MR. SPEAKER: Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* THE ADVERSE SEASONAL CONDITIONS IN KOLLEGAL TALUK.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received a notice under rule 40 from Sri S. C. Virupakshiah calling the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, Mr. S. C. Virupakshiah.

* SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Revenue to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the adverse seasonal conditions in Kollegal taluk of the Coimbatore district. I am calling attention to this matter with a very heavy heart. A major portion of the Kollegal taluk is in the rain-fed area. This taluk enjoys the benefit of both the monsoons. The first monsoon, under which the mungaru crop used to be raised. completely failed with the result that there was no sowing at all for the main crop of cholam. For the second crop, ragi was sown, but the plants completely withered. Thus there has been a complete failure of crop. This is a poor taluk and it can boast of only a few items of wealth and the chief among them is cattle wealth. The most poignant result of this adverse seasonal condition is the high mortality of cattle. Cattle have been dying from the month of June and I have been informing the authorities that cattle have died in hundreds and thousands. The causes for the death are not far to seek. They fall mainly under two heads: one is want of fodder and the other is the prevalence of diseases arising out of under-feeding. These, I submit, are preventible causes. If only the Government had been pleased to bestow attention and supply fodder in time, much of the calamity could have been avoided. About twelve thousand heads of cattle have died. Thanks to Providence, we had some sharp showers three or four days back and we hope to tide over the crisis in two months. I earnestly appeal to the Government to pay immediate attention to this matter and rush fodder to the

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area to avoid further cattle mortality. Since agricultural operations have been suspended, agricultural labourers and pattadars are finding no work. As such, I request this Government to be pleased to open immediately relief works so that able-bodied men may earn their livelihood and keep their body and soul together. 10-00 a.m.

In addition to starting relief works, fair price shops should be opened all over the taluk to enable people to buy their grain needs.

Thirdly, I request the Government to be pleased to order the suspension of the collection of dues to Government, whether it is the collection of the takkavi loans or the collection of kist or penalty or whatever classification it might come under. It is highly praiseworthy that this Government have given expression to noble and lofty ideas that the question of States reorganization will never stand in the way of their dealing with this matter. Unfortunately, these are happening when this Kollegal taluk is going to be detached from the Madras State in about six weeks. So I request this Government to show their magnanimity by immediately bestowing attention on giving relief to the Kollegal taluk. At the same time I may say that expeditious action is the essence of service and immediate attention paid to the distress condition in Kollegal taluk will save the taluk from the disastrous effects of famine. Thank you very much, Sir.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a representation made by Sri S. C. Virupakshiah, M.L.A., that distress conditions were prevailing in Kollegal taluk, the Collector of Coimbatore visited the area from 18th to 21st July 1956 and reported that as the rains during April to July 1956 had been inadequate in Kollegal taluk, sowing of paddy and ragi had been delayed. Some crops were reported to be withering. Want of jungle stream water and fodder resulted in foot and mouth disease among the cattle and some cattle mortality occurred. The Collector took the following immediate relief measures :—

(1) The District Forest Officer was authorized to permit the free grazing in, and free cutting and removal of grass from, Government forest.

(2) The District Forest Officer was instructed to repair all tanks containing springs meant for cattle inside the reserved forest area without any delay.

(3) The District Veterinary Officer was directed to mobilise adequate staff to take action to avert cattle mortality.

The Board Member toured the area and instructed the Collector to prepare a list of appropriate items of relief works that could be put into operation immediately when required and to keep them ready to be taken up as low scale famine relief works. He also instructed the Collector to have all preliminary enquiries made and arrangements kept ready for importing fodder and selling it at a subsidized price at firka centres.

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The following relief measures have since been taken. The issue of takkavi loans has been accelerated by the appointment of a special staff of a Tahsildar and three Revenue Inspectors. A sum of Rs. 50,000 has so far been disbursed as Takkavi loans in the Kollegal taluk and the Collector has sanctioned a further allotment of Rs. 50,000 for granting loans :—

The concession granted by the Collector of Coimbatore by throwing open reserved forest for the free grazing and free cutting and removal of grass has been rendered ineffective by the lack of grass in the forest area due to want of rains. The Board Member, while on tour, had ordered the free cutting and removal of fodder leaves from the reserved forests. The Government have since directed that fodder be imported into Kollegal taluk from Yalandur in the Mysore State and distributed at concessional rates in the firka centres with State-aid and an advance of Rs. 1,000 under Agricultural Loans Act has been sanctioned for the purchase of hay.

Orders have been issued directing the Collector of Coimbatore to take up six works as low scale famine relief works in Kollegal taluk at an estimated cost of Rs. 28,000.

The Board of Revenue is taking action for the opening of six fair price shops to sell rice at subsidised rates, one at each of the six work spots. The Collector has taken suitable measures for the distribution of milk powder.

It is understood that there is no need for the opening of any gruel centres. As regards the other suggestion that the hon. Member made at the end of his speech, I would request him to give it in writing. I will have it examined.

III.—ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS *RE* MARCH OF TAMIL VOLUNTEERS FROM TIRUTTANI AND PUTTUR TO MADRAS TO OFFER SATYAGRAHA IN CONNECTION WITH THE BORDER DISPUTES.

MR. SPEAKER : I have received notice of two adjournment motions, one from Sri A. Govindaswami and the other from Sri A. Ratnam.

The hon. Member Sri Govindaswami is not in his seat and, therefore, his motion will be deemed withdrawn.

The next motion by Sri A. Ratnam reads as follows :—

'I beg to move a motion for the adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., that the Government has failed in urging on the Central Government the formation of a Boundary Commission for the border disputes between Madras and Andhra States and the marching of 200 Tamil volunteers from Tiruttani and Puttur by foot to launch satyagraha before the Madras State Assembly on 24th September 1956.'